

The Frelinghuysen Parsonage  
"Old Dutch Parsonage"  
Washington Place  
Somerville, Somerset County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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18-Som<sup>th</sup>.  
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The Frelinghuysen Parsonage  
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Owner: John Frelinghuysen Chapter D.A.R.

Date of Erection: 1751

Architect:

Builder: John Frelinghuysen

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - modern

Exterior walls - Flemish  
bond with occasional black  
bricks

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, gables added  
in front and rear

Historical Data:

The house was erected in 1751; the date on the cornerstone reads June 7, 1751. The Reverend John Frelinghuysen and wife Dinah moved into the house and used it as their home and as a Theological Seminary.

Reverend Frelinghuysen died in 1754, and his widow married Reverend Jacob Rutzen Hardenberg, who was a pupil of Frelinghuysen. The Hardenbergs lived there until 1781. Washington was entertained by them during their occupancy. The Hardenbergs moved to New Brunswick where the Reverend Hardenberg became president of Queen's College.

The next occupant of the house was a nephew of the Reverend John Frelinghuysen - the Reverend Theodore Frelinghuysen Romeyn. It was sold to Dr. Swan after his occupancy, who in turn sold it in 1810 to Dr. Peter R. Stryker. It had several owners during the nineteenth century. Finally in October 1912, it was sold to the Central Railroad of New Jersey. Through the efforts of ex-senator Frelinghuysen it was moved in 1913 to its present site and donated by him to the D. A. R. in 1932.

Before the house was moved it had two frame wings; a kitchen on the west side with a Dutch oven and a wing in the rear built in the early part of the nineteenth century. When the house was moved it was restored to conform as nearly as possible to its original pattern. Somewhere about 1836 the original windows were cut to the floor and French windows were inserted, a porch was built across the front, and the original door was removed and a new one put in its place. When the house was moved the porch was removed, the old windows restored, and a copy of the front door made and set in place. The original mantels of the living room and of the west bedroom of the second floor, and the original front door are built in the home of ex-senator Frelinghuysen. Some of the panel cupboards from the second floor east bedroom were built in the house of Edward Bilkley at Olwick, Hunterdon County.

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Material collected by Michael Stillman,  
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